

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| DOCKET NUMBER  | ANTICIPATED CLASSIFICATION OF THIS APPLICATION: |          | PRIOR APPLICATION |          |
|----------------|---|----------|-------------------|----------|
|                | CLASS   | SUBCLASS | EXAMINER          | ART UNIT |
| 10873.0794USD1 |   |          | Brandi N. Thomas  | 2873     |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 321727313 US  
Date of Deposit: October 9, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: *Teresa Anderson*  
Name: Teresa Anderson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/941385 filed on August 28, 2001.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

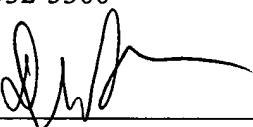
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
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Dated: October 9, 2003

By   
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/ame

|   |  |  |                                 |  |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>FORM 1449*</b><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  |  |  | Docket Number:<br>10873.794USD1 | Application Number:<br>Filed here within |
| <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |  | Applicant: YAMAGUCHI et al.     |  |
|   |  |  | Filing Date: Filed here within  | Group Art Unit: 2873                     |

| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|---|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL  | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE          | NAME             | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|   | 6,256,145 B1 | July 2001     | Kono et al.      |       |          |                            |
|   | 5,932,342    | August 1999   | Zeira et al.     |       |          |                            |
|   | 6,310,722    | October 2001  | Baek, Jong Soo   |       |          |                            |
|   | 6,169,633    | January 2001  | Watanabe, Hitomu |       |          |                            |
|   | 5,477,380    | December 1995 | Watanabe et al.  |       |          |                            |
|   | 6,002,464    | December 1999 | Fujisawa et al.  |       |          |                            |
|   | 5,590,943    | January 1997  | Yoshida et al.   |       |          |                            |
|   | 6,400,504    | June 2002     | Miyata, Hideki   |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE          | COUNTRY          | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION                |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          | YES      NO                |
|   | 10-293362    | Nov. 1998     | Japan            |       |          |                            |
|   | 11-338057    | Dec. 1999     | Japan            |       |          |                            |
|   | 8-313865     | Nov. 1996     | Japan            |       |          |                            |
|   | 732 615      | Sept. 1996    | EPO              |       |          |                            |
|   | 10-293361    | Nov. 1998     | Japan            |       |          |                            |
| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b> (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |
|   |              |               |                  |       |          |                            |



|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. |                 |